

# Wakefield Junior Gridders Top County

By "DUCK" DUCKSON

Arlington's junior high schools climaxed their 1954 grid schedules last Friday afternoon, with the county title for the top team still in the balance before gametime. Wakefield emerged victorious with a resounding 26-0 spanking over Swanson, and sported an unbeaten slate during the five game campaign. Only a 6-6 tie against Thomas Jefferson marred the otherwise perfect record for coach Jesse Meeks. Up to the final day's action, Thomas Jefferson was a serious contender, but they lost their only game of the year to Stratford junior high, 27-7, and were dropped to third place behind their conquerors.

Wakefield, having defeated Swanson 13-0 in an earlier contest, had little trouble with the winless Westover school, scoring one touchdown in both the first and second periods, and two more in the third.

Using a tricky end around play early in the game, the Warriors grabbed a 6-0 lead when left end Crump took the ball from quarterback Jimmy Johnson, and ran the opposite end 35 yards for the score. Johnson booted the extra point for a first period lead of 7-0. In the second quarter, Johnson personally accounted for the next seven points, romping around right end for 27 yards out, and passed to end Frank Homan for the 14th point.

A 32 yard pass play from Johnson to Homan brought another score early in the third period, and before the teams changed sides, the ace Warrior signal caller "kept" on the option play and raced over right tackle some 30 yards for the final TD. Both attempts for the extra point were missed on the last two touchdowns.

Coach Meeks pointed out the fine play of left tackle Jay Woolard and right guard Ronnie Lee as the forwards contained the Swanson juniors all afternoon.

Stratford, who finished second in the junior high race by defeating Thomas Jefferson, initiated the scoring when Gary Gardiner capped a 60 yard drive with a 30 yard heave to right end Bill Easton. Ray Williams booted the extra point, giving his team a 7-0 lead. It was a short lived lead, however, as the Yellowjackets came right back, Ron Whittaker setting up his team's score with a tremendous 60 yard jaunt before being caught from behind on the Stratford five. Halfback Dave Hough then tossed to Richard Ruhl and with the kick splitting the uprights, the score was knotted at 7-7.

Putting the ball in play on their own 30, Stratford marched for another six pointer to take the lead and the eventual winning touchdown. Gardiner's running pass to Sonny Gorum, who grabbed the pigskin on the two and dove over, marked the clincher. Williams again converted and at halftime, Stratford held a 14-7 lead.

Thomas Jefferson kicked off to open the second half, and moments later from their own 18, Stratford had racked up another score. Gardiner faked to Mike Cardoni, handed to Gorum, and the fleet back raced to the TJ three before he was finally stopped. Cardoni then went through center for the tally, the extra point attempt was wide, but the score moved up to 20 for Stratford, 7 for Thomas Jefferson.

Coach John Youngblood's charges put the game on ice with their final marker in the fourth quarter when Gardiner hit Kenneth Wade on a running pass play from five yards out, Williams again converting, boosting the score to 27-7 which it remained throughout the contest.

Cardoni, Gardiner and Gorum were all outstanding in the Stratford backfield, much credit also going to blocking back Bob Hartman and a fine forward wall which halted the vaunted running game of coach Bill Michael's Yellowjackets. Earlier in the year, these same two teams battled to a scoreless tie.

Final standings for the five Arlington junior high schools in the 1954 campaign are as follows:

School	Won	Lost	Tied
Wakefield	4	0	1
Stratford	3	1	1
Thomas Jefferson	2	1	2
Williamsburg	1	3	0
Swanson	0	5	0
	10	10	4